

Hartsville/Trousdale County Government  
**LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**Meeting Date:** December 13, 2022, 6 p.m., Mayor's office

**Present:** Shane Burton, Steve Whittaker, Tommy Belcher, Grant Cothron, Judy Kerr, Chris Gregory

**Others Present:** Mayor Jack McCall, Josh Scruggs

Shane Burton called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

Minutes of the May 17, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve by Grant Cothron, second by Tommy Belcher. Motion approved.

Floor was opened for the nomination of officers. Shane Burton and Grant Cothron were nominated for chairman. Burton was elected by 3-1 vote (Kerr; Burton/Cothron abstained). Grant Cothron was nominated for vice chair, elected by acclamation. Chris Gregory was nominated for secretary, elected by acclamation.

Josh Scruggs, Jail Administrator for Trousdale County Sheriff's Department (TCSD), provided information on a grant available through the state. Grant funds would allow TCSD to contract with an outside entity to transport emotionally disturbed people to hospitals, which would save TCSD substantial costs in overtime. County Attorney Branden Bellar and EMS Director Matt Batey are reviewing this grant to make sure the county can comply with requirements. TCSD could save as much as 85 percent of overtime costs, per Scruggs.

Chris Gregory asked how long a time period the grant covers. That information was not available.

Judy Kerr asked who would handle transports instead of TCSD. Burton indicated that Trousdale EMS would transport. Scruggs added that TCSD would still transport cases of subjects in custody.

Sheriff has asked to meet with the committee to discuss grant, other needs. Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 19 at 6 p.m. at the mayor's office.

Gregory asked if EMS had the personnel to handle transports without affecting EMS service to the county. Burton indicated yes.

Kerr asked if the county had any liability if someone gets hurt as EMS transports would not be handcuffed. Burton said if subjects tried to leave, they likely would be allowed to do so as they would not be under arrest. Kerr also asked about juvenile transports. That information was not available.

Gregory asked that Batey be at the January meeting to provide information on EMS staffing relating to transport grant.

Mayor McCall provided a brief update on the new jail project, said might have to be what the county can afford vs. what the county would like. Mayor said Cheatham County rejected a \$61 million bid for 200 new beds and that Hamblen County had recently been decertified by the state. Mayor believed Grundy County built a barebones new facility in 2016 for \$8-9 million.

Burton said the county needs to do something or have lots of remodeling to the current justice center. There have been complaints about lack of privacy for attorney-client consultations, and there are other issues with building and space. Chancery and General Sessions Courts have sometimes been standing room only, per Burton.

Motion to adjourn at 6:19pm by Grant Cothron. Motion approved.

*Minutes presented by Chris Gregory*